Rules

of the

Select Committee on Hunger

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100th CONGRESS

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Select Committee on Hunger

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INTRODUCTION

A Resolution to create the Select Committee on Hunger was introduced during the first session of the 98th Congress, and passed by the House early in the second session. Since that time, the House has reauthorized the Committee for both the 99th and 100th Congress, allowing the Committee to continue its focus on hunger and malnutrition worldwide.

The Select Committee's mandate is to conduct a continuing comprehensive study and review of the problems of domestic and international hunger and malnutrition.

FUNCTIONS

(a) The select committee shall not have legislative jurisdiction. The select committee shall have authority—

(1) to conduct a continuing comprehensive study and review of the problems of hunger and malnutrition, but not limited to, those issues addressed in the reports of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger and the Independent Commission on International Development Issues, which issues include—

(A) the United States development and economic assistance program and the executive branch structure responsible for administering the program;

(B) world food security;

(C) trade relations between the United States and less developed countries;

(D) food production and distribution;

(E) corporate and agribusiness efforts to further international development;

(F) policies of multilateral development banks and international development institutions; and

(G) food assistance programs in the United States;

(2) to review any recommendations made by the President, or by any department or agency of the executive branch of the Federal Government, relating to programs or policies affecting hunger or malnutrition; and

(3) to recommend to the appropriate committees of the House legislation or other action the select committee considers necessary with respect to programs or policies affecting hunger or malnutrition.

(b) Nothing contained in this resolution shall be construed to limit or alter the legislative and oversight jurisdiction of any standing committee of the House under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

(a) The select committee shall be composed of 26 Members* of the House, who shall be appointed by the Speaker, one of whom he shall designate as chairman.

(b) Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the select committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "Members" shall include any Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the House of Representatives.

AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURES

(a) For purposes of carrying out this resolution, the select committee is authorized to sit and act during the present Congress at such times and places within the United States,

* Composed of 17 Members during the 98th and 99th Congress.

including any Commonwealth or possession thereof, or elsewhere, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings as it deems necessary.

(b) The provisions of clauses 1, 2, and 3 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the select committee except the provisions of clause 2(m)(1)(B) of Rule XI relating to subpena power.

(c) Nothing contained in subsection (a) of this section shall be construed to limit the applicability of clause 2(i) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the select committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(a) Subject to the adoption of expense resolutions are required by clause 5 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the select committee may incur expenses in connection with its duties under this resolution.

(b) In carrying out its functions under this resolution, the select committee is authorized—

(1) to appoint, either on a permanent basis or as experts or consultants, such staff as the select committee considers necessary;

(2) to utilize the services of the staffs of those committees of the House from which Members have been selected for membership on the select committee;

(3) to prescribe the duties and responsibilities of such staff;

(4) to fix the compensation of such staff at a single per annum gross rate which does not exceed the highest rate of basic pay, as in effect from time to time, of level V of the Executive Schedule in section 5316 of title 5, United States Code;

(5) to terminate the employment of any such staff as the select committee considers appropriate; and

(6) to reimburse members of the select committee and of its staff for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties and responsibilities for the select committee, other than expenses in connection with any meeting of the select committee held in the District of Columbia.

REPORTS AND RECORDS

(a) The select committee shall report to the House as soon as practicable during the present Congress, the results of its investigation and study, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable.

(b) Any such report which is made when the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of the House.

(c) Any such report shall be referred to the committee or committees having jurisdiction over the subject matter thereof.

(d) The records, files, and materials of the select committee shall be transferred to the Clerk of the House.

RULES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER

U.S. House of Representatives, 100th Congress

RULE 1. MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the committee shall be held on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m., except when Congress has adjourned. The chairman is authorized to dispense with a regular meeting or to change the date thereof, and to call and convene additional meetings, when circumstances warrant. A special meeting of the committee may be requested by members of the committee in accordance with the provisions of House Rule XI, 2(c)(2). Every member of the committee, unless prevented by unusual circumstances, shall be provided with a memorandum at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) prior to each meeting or hearing explaining (1) the purpose of the meeting or hearing; and (2) the name, titles, background and reasons for appearance of any witness. The minority staff shall be responsible for providing the same information on witnesses whom the minority may request.

RULE 2. QUORUMS

A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence. Proxies shall not be used to establish a quorum. If the chairman is not present at any meeting of the committee, the ranking member of the majority party on the committee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

RULE 3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Every committee report shall be approved by a majority vote of the members voting, a quorum being present. Supplemental, minority, or additional views may be filed in accordance with House Rule XI, 2(1)(5). The time allowed for filing such views shall be three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) unless the committee agrees to a different time, but agreement on a shorter time shall require the concurrence of each member seeking to file such views. A proposed report shall not be considered in committee unless the proposed report has been available to the members of the committee for at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) prior to the consideration of such proposed report in the committee. If hearings have been held on the matter reported upon, every reasonable effort shall be made to have such hearings available to the members of the committee prior to the consideration of the proposed report in the committee.

RULE 4. PROXY VOTES

A member may vote by proxy on any measure or matter before the committee and on any amendment or motion pertaining thereto. A proxy shall be in writing and be signed by the member granting the proxy; it shall show the date and time of day it was signed and the date for which it is given and the member to whom the proxy is given. Each proxy authorization shall state that the member is absent on official business or is otherwise unable to be present; shall be limited to the date and specific measure or matter to which it applies; and, unless it states otherwise, shall apply to any amendments or motions pertaining to the measure or matter.

RULE 5. ROLLCALLS

A rollcall of the members may be had upon the request of any member.

RULE 6. RECORD OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS

The committee staff shall maintain in the committee offices a complete record of the rollcall votes taken at committee business meetings. The original records, or true copies thereof, as appropriate, shall be available for public inspection whenever the committee offices are open for public business. The staff shall assure that such original records are preserved with no unauthorized alterations, additions, or defacement.

RULE 7. TASK FORCES

The committee may establish such task forces as it deems appropriate. The jurisdiction of such task forces shall be established by the chairman of the committee in consultation with the ranking minority member of the committee. The chairman and ranking minority member of the committee shall serve ex officio on each task force.

RULE 8. HEARING DATES AND WITNESSES

The chairman of the committee, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the committee, shall announce the date, place, and subject matter of all hearings at least one week prior to the commencement of any hearings, unless he, after consultation with that member, determines that there is good cause to begin such hearings at an earlier date. Whenever any hearing is conducted by the committee upon any measure or matter, the committee's minority party members shall be entitled, upon request by a majority of them to the chairman of the committee before the completion of the hearing to call

witnesses selected by them to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing. Witnesses appearing before the committee shall, so far as practicable, submit written statements at least 72 hours in advance of their appearance.

RULE 9. OPEN MEETINGS

Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the committee shall be open to the public or closed in accordance with Rule XI of the House of Representatives.

RULE 10. FIVE MINUTE RULE

Insofar as practicable, witnesses shall be permitted to present their oral statements without interruptions, questioning by the committee members taking place afterward. After completing his questioning, the chairman shall recognize the ranking majority and then the ranking minority member, and thereafter in recognizing members present, he may give preference to the members on the basis of their arrival at the hearing, taking into consideration the majority and minority ratio of the members actually present. A member desiring to speak or ask a question shall address the chairman and not the witness in order to insure orderly procedure.

Each member may question the witness for 5 minutes, the reply of the witness being included in the 5-minute period. After all members have had an opportunity to ask questions, the round may begin again under the 5-minute rule.

RULE 11. INVESTIGATIVE HEARINGS; PROCEDURES

Investigative hearings shall be conducted according to the procedures in House Rule XI, 2(K). All questions put to witnesses before the committee shall be relevant to the subject matter before the committee for consideration, and the

chairman shall rule on the relevance of any questions put to the witness.

RULE 12. STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

A stenographic record of all testimony shall be kept of public hearings and shall be made available on such conditions as the chairman may prescribe.

RULE 13. TV, RADIO AND PHOTOGRAPHS

When approved by a majority vote, an open meeting or hearing of the committee may be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, by any of such methods of coverage, subject to the provision of House Rule XI, 3. In order to enforce the provision of said rule or to maintain an acceptable standard of dignity, propriety, and decorum, the chairman may order such alterations, curtailment or discontinuance of coverage as he determines necessary.

RULE 14. STAFF

The chairman shall have the authority to hire and discharge majority staff and majority-appointed shared staff. The ranking minority member shall have the authority to discharge minority staff and minority-appointed shared staff. The authorization for the creation of new majority and majority-appointed shared staff positions, subject to the committee's budget, shall rest with the chairman, and the ranking minority member shall have the same authority with respect to minority and minority-appointed shared staff.

RULE 15. AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL

Travel to be paid from fund set aside for the full committee for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon

the prior authorization of the chairman. Travel may be authorized by the chairman for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance of hearing conducted by the committee and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the chairman in writing the following:

(1) The purpose of the travel.

(2) The dates during which travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the travel is being made.

(3) The location of the event for which the travel is to be made.

(4) The names of member and staff seeking authorization.

RULE 16. ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the committee shall—

(1) make available to other committees the Select Committee's findings and recommendations resulting from the investigations of the committee as appropriate; and

(2) prepare a budget for the committee and present such budget to the committee for its approval.

RULE 17. AMENDMENTS OF RULES

These rules may be modified, amended or repealed by a majority vote of the committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present, of at least two legislative days' written notice of the proposed change has been provided each member of the committee prior to the meeting date on which such changes are to be discussed and voted upon.

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